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--CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP99/10190, filed December 20, 1999, in the European Patent Office; additionally, Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 98204414.1, filed December 22, 1998, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/114,256, filed December 28, 1998, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; the contents of all of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Page 1, line 19, delete the subheading "Prior art" and add section subheading --Description of the Related Art-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "In the field of vehicle tire manufacturing . . . ."

Page 2, line 27, delete the subheading "Summary of the invention" and add section heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The technical problem underlying the present invention . . . ."

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Page 18, line 3, add section heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

A2  
prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Additional characteristics and advantages of the invention . . . ."

Page 18, line 11, add section heading DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE

A3 PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "With reference to such figure . . . ."

Add a new Page 50 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate Page 50 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A tire for vehicles includes a tread having a vulcanized polymeric base including at least one reinforcing filler dispersed in the polymeric base; an amount of extractable residue of at least one vulcanization accelerator, containing at least one carbon atom bound to at least two sulfur atoms, from 0.5% to 1.8% by weight based on a total weight of the tread; an amount of at least one activator, expressed as equivalents of zinc oxide, not higher than 2% by weight based on the total weight of the tread; and an amount of combined sulfur lower than 2.5% by weight based on the total weight of the tread. A tread for vehicle tires, a vulcanizable rubber composition for the manufacture of such a tread, and a vulcanizing system, all related to the tire for vehicles, are also disclosed.--

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